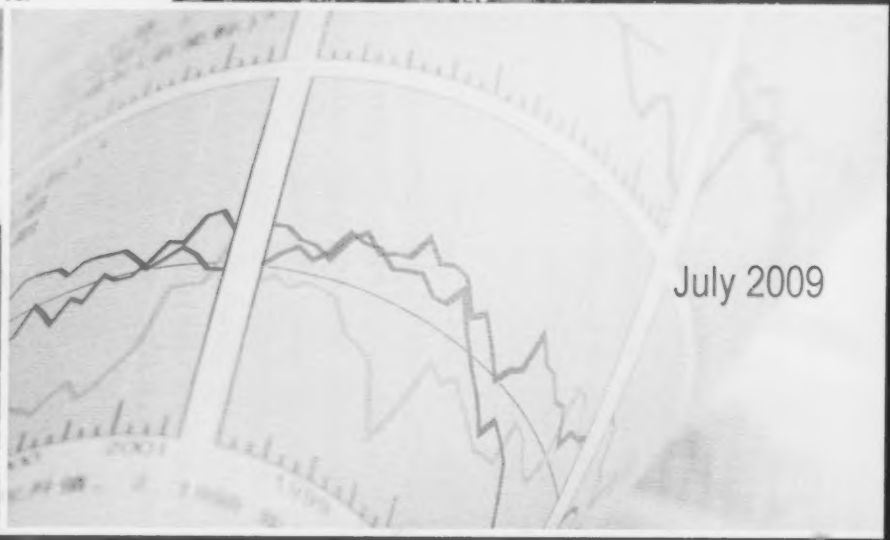


July 2009

Regional Economic Indicators

Palliser Region

Government of Alberta

Regional Economic Indicators
Palliser Region

July 2009

PALLISER REGION

MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES	PAGE 1
DEMOGRAPHICS	PAGE 2
IMMIGRATION (PERMANENT RESIDENTS)	PAGE 3
LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS	PAGE 4
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY	PAGE 5
INCOME	PAGE 6
INVESTMENT	PAGE 7
ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES	PAGE 8
SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS	PAGE 9
INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS	PAGE 10
DEFINITIONS	PAGE 11

MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

According to Statistics Canada census data, the major municipality in the Palliser Region that had the largest per cent increase in population from 2001 to 2006, was Redcliff with an increase of 24.2% or 992 residents. The major municipality that gained the largest number of residents over the same period was Medicine Hat with an increase of 5,748 (or 11.2%).

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region				
Major Municipalities *	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**1996 Population**
Medicine Hat	City	56,997	51,249	46,783
Brooks	Town	12,498	11,604	10,093
Newell No. 4, County of	Municipal District	6,862	7,137	6,421
Cypress County No. 1	Municipal District	6,729	6,114	5,683
Redcliff	Town	5,096	4,372	4,104
Forty Mile No. 8, County of	Municipal District	3,414	3,432	3,230
Hanna	Town	2,847	2,986	3,001
Special Area No. 2	Special Area	2,074	2,331	2,531
Bow Island	Town	1,790	1,704	1,688
Special Area No. 3	Special Area	1,266	1,469	1,584
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

* Top ten cities/towns and municipalities in region, based on population from census years.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region				
	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		**1996 - 2006 (10 Years)**	
Major Municipalities	**% Change**	**Net Change**	**% Change**	**Net Change**
Medicine Hat	11.2%	5,748	21.8%	10,214
Brooks	7.7%	894	23.8%	2,405
Newell No. 4, County of	-3.9%	(275)	6.9%	441
Cypress County No. 1	10.1%	615	18.4%	1,046
Redcliff	16.6%	724	24.2%	992
Forty Mile No. 8, County of	-0.5%	(18)	5.7%	184
Hanna	-4.7%	(139)	-5.1%	(154)
Special Area No. 2	-11.0%	(257)	-18.1%	(457)
Bow Island	5.0%	86	6.0%	102
Special Area No. 3	-13.8%	(203)	-20.1%	(318)
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

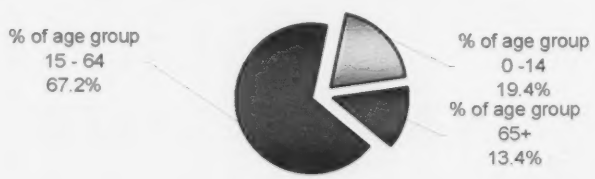
DEMOGRAPHICS

According to Statistics Canada census data, the Palliser Region's population increased by 7.4% or 7,224 residents from 2001 to 2006. The region's population accounted for 3.2% of the province's population.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region	
Land Area	**Palliser**
Square Kilometers	43,515.4
% of Provincial Total	6.8
Total Population	**Palliser**
Population (000s), 2006 Census	105,181
% of Provincial Total	3.2%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	97,947
% of Provincial Total	3.3%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	90,574
% of Provincial Total	3.4%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	7.4%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	16.1%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region			
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 65+ (%)	13.4	13.2	13.1
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	19.4	20.8	22.7
Dependency Ratio [1]	48.8	51.5	55.9
Old Age Dependency Ratio [2]	19.9	20.0	20.4
Males, Ages 0 -14 (%)	19.8	21.4	23.4
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	19.0	20.2	22.1
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	68.6	66.9	65.1
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	65.8	65.1	63.2
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	11.6	11.7	11.5
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	15.1	14.6	14.7
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

Total Population by Age Group, 2006



IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2007, 266 immigrants selected a location in the Palliser Region as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating once province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for the Palliser Region was 8.9%. The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for Alberta was 4.8%. The total change for the Palliser Region was 59.3% (99) between 2002 and 2007 and 135.4% (153) between 1997 and 2007.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region	
Immigrants, CIC (Permanent Residents) [3]	**Palliser**
As of December 31, 1997	113
% of Province	0.9%
As of December 31, 1998	121
% of Province	1.1%
As of December 31, 1999	108
% of Province	0.9%
As of December 31, 2000	200
% of Province	1.4%
As of December 31, 2001	257
% of Province	1.6%
As of December 31, 2002	167
% of Province	1.1%
As of December 31, 2003	247
% of Province	1.6%
As of December 31, 2004	261
% of Province	1.6%
As of December 31, 2005	276
% of Province	1.4%
As of December 31, 2006	300
% of Province	1.5%
As of December 31, 2007	266
% of Province	1.3%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 years[4]	**8.9%**
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File	

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

According to Statistics Canada's census data, the Palliser Region employment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 70.8% in 2006 and the participation rate was 73.5%.

Please note: Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data was used for all labour force indicators in the Palliser Region (see note in below table.)

In 2006, the Palliser Region's employment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 72.5% and the participation rate was 77.2%. In that same year, the unemployment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 3.6%. In 2006, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 3.4% - well below the national average of 6.3%.

Between 2006 and 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 4.7% or by 88,700. During that same period, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by about 289,000 or 17.2%.

In 2007, Alberta made up 10.3% of Canada's working age population (15+ years), the province created nearly one-quarter (23.2%) of all new jobs in Canada. Alberta created nearly as many jobs as Ontario (88,700 vs 101,100), which has more than three times the working age population of Alberta.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region		
Annual Labour Force Characteristics[5]	**2006***	**2001***
Population: 15+ (000s)	83.3	76.4
Labour Force: 15+ (000s)	61.2	54.3
Employment: 15+ (000s)	59.0	51.8
Unemployment: 15+ (000s)	2.2	2.5
Participation Rate: 15+ (%)	73.5	71.1
Unemployment Rate: 15+ (%)	3.6	4.7
Employment Rate: 15+ (%)	70.8	67.8
Participation Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	77.2	74.6
Unemployment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	6.1	9.6
Employment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	72.5	67.4
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006.		

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, for the following reasons. First, there are no population control totals for special geographies such as these regions. Second, some of the smaller regions have small sample size, leading to greater volatility in the estimates. Third, Statistics Canada periodically redesigns its survey methodology; the latest redesign was done in 2005. Because of these data problems, Census data for 2001 and 2006 were used for all indicators for the smaller regions, and data for these indicators for the other years are not included.

** Census estimate*

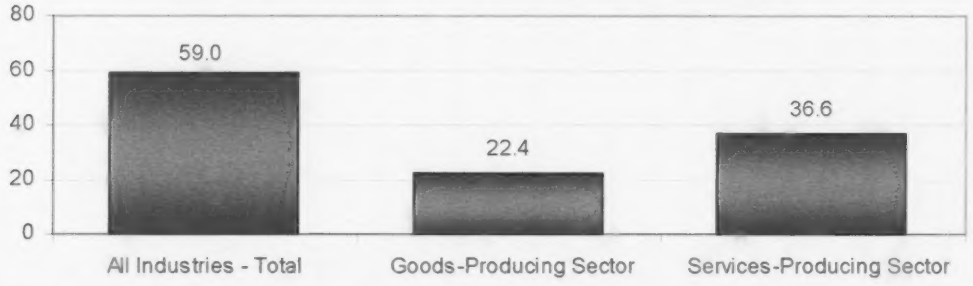
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 2006, according to Statistics Canada's census data, the services-producing sector in the Palliser Region accounted for 62% of the total number employed.

The Mining and Oil and Gas industry had the highest number of individuals employed with approximately 6,500 jobs in 2006. This industry is followed by the Retail Trade sector with 6,300 jobs and Agriculture with 6,200 jobs.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region		
Employment by Industry [6]	**2006**	**2001**
Total Employment – All Industries	**59.0**	**51.8**
Goods-Producing Sector	**22.4**	**20.0**
Agriculture & Forestry	6.2	7.1
Mining & Oil & Gas	6.5	3.8
Utilities	0.6	0.4
Construction	4.8	3.9
Manufacturing	4.3	4.8
Services-Producing Sector	**36.6**	**31.8**
Wholesale Trade	2.1	1.5
Retail Trade	6.3	5.8
Transportation & Warehousing	2.4	2.2
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	2.0	1.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	2.3	1.7
Business, Building & Other Support Services	1.5	1.5
Educational Services	3.2	2.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	5.5	4.7
Information, Culture & Recreation	1.3	1.5
Accommodation & Food Services	3.8	3.3
Other Services	3.5	2.6
Public Administration	2.7	2.5
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006		
Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence, Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data were used for all labour force indicators in the Palliser Region.		

Employment by Industry, Palliser, 2006 (In '000s)



INCOME, TAXFILER

In 2006, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the Palliser Region was $30,995, a 5.1% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that reported an individual gross income of $100,000 and over was 4.1%.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region			
Individual Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Individual Income ($)	30,995	29,500	26,580
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	21.7%	20.7%	21.2%
$1 - $20,000	29.0%	31.4%	33.2%
$20,000 - $40,000	20.5%	21.1%	20.6%
$40,000 - $60,000	12.6%	12.4%	12.3%
$60,000 - $80,000	8.0%	7.4%	7.1%
$80,000 - $99,999	4.0%	3.5%	3.0%
$100,000+	4.1%	3.4%	2.6%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

In 2006, the average couple (defined as married or common law) income for all taxfilers for the Palliser Region was $90,410, a 4.1% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that defined themselves as a couple and reported an income of $100,000 and over was 29.1%

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region			
Couple income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Couple Income ($)	90,410	86,855	77,850
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
$1 - $20,000	5.7%	5.9%	6.3%
$20,000 - $40,000	16.3%	18.2%	19.7%
$40,000 - $60,000	17.2%	18.7%	20.1%
$60,000 - $80,000	17.1%	18.2%	18.5%
$80,000 - $99,999	14.3%	14.0%	13.9%
$100,000+	29.1%	24.8%	21.0%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

INVESTMENT

In 2007, the total building permit value for the Palliser Region increased by 16.4% from 2006 to an estimated $304.3 million, 53% more than the 10-year average of $198.7 million. Between 2006 and 2007, the residential building permit value for the region increased by 7.6% to $172.9 million.

In 2007, the number of housing starts in the Palliser Region increased by 4.0% from 2006 to 1,195 units. The 2007 number of starts was 26.4% higher than the 10-year average of 945. The number of single family housing starts in the region increased by 11.1% from 2006 to 677.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2007)	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**
Total Building Permit Value ($000s)	304,260	261,455	174,592
% of Provincial Total	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%
Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) [8]	2,893	2,486	1,698
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	228,815		
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	198,756		
Commercial Building Permit Value ($000s)	63,192	55,738	31,248
Commercial % of Total Building Permit Value	20.8%	21.3%	17.9%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	1.3%	1.5%	1.3%
Industrial Building Permit Value ($000s)	37,011	35,988	19,345
Industrial % of Total Building Permit Value	12.2%	13.8%	11.1%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	3.9%	3.4%	2.3%
Institutional Building Permit Value ($000s)	31,139	9,026	5,033
Institutional % of Total Building Permit Value	10.2%	3.5%	2.9%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	3.6%	0.9%	0.6%
Residential Building Permit Value ($000s)	172,918	160,703	118,966
Residential % of Total Building Permit Value	56.8%	61.5%	68.1%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Single Family Housing Starts	677	609	549
Single Family Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	610		
Single Family Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	560		
Total Housing Starts	1,195	1,149	1,080
Total Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	1,097		
Total Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	945		
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilation by Alberta Finance & Enterprise			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

In 2007, 68.1% of all business establishments with employees in the Palliser Region were classified in the services-producing sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Public Administration.

From 2006 to 2007, there was a net increase of 3.4% or 171 in the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the Palliser Region. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the Palliser Region increased by 9.6% or by 454 establishments.

From 2006 to 2007, the goods-producing sector in the Palliser Region had a net decrease of 3.7% or 64 establishments. Over the same period, the service-producing sector in the Palliser Region saw a net increase of 7.1% or 235 establishments.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region

Establishment with Employees[9]	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	**5,198**	**5,027**	**4,744**	**3.4%**	**9.6%**
Total Goods Industries	**1,658**	**1,722**	**1,627**	**-3.7%**	**1.9%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	477	568	658	-16.0%	-27.5%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	439	405	295	8.4%	48.8%
Utilities	19	17	16	11.8%	18.8%
Construction	586	604	508	-3.0%	15.4%
Manufacturing	137	128	150	7.0%	-8.7%
Total Service Industries	**3,540**	**3,305**	**3,117**	**7.1%**	**13.6%**
Wholesale Trade	258	207	212	24.6%	21.7%
Retail Trade	592	549	526	7.8%	12.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	259	242	272	7.0%	-4.8%
Information and Cultural Industries	52	50	41	4.0%	26.8%
Finance and Insurance	161	132	114	22.0%	41.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	137	159	135	-13.8%	1.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	492	510	431	-3.5%	14.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	45	36	51	25.0%	-11.8%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	217	193	150	12.4%	44.7%
Educational Services	59	54	39	9.3%	51.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	324	295	265	9.8%	22.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	68	72	79	-5.6%	-13.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	279	261	298	6.9%	-6.4%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	578	524	481	10.3%	20.2%
Public Administration	19	21	23	-9.5%	-17.4%

Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

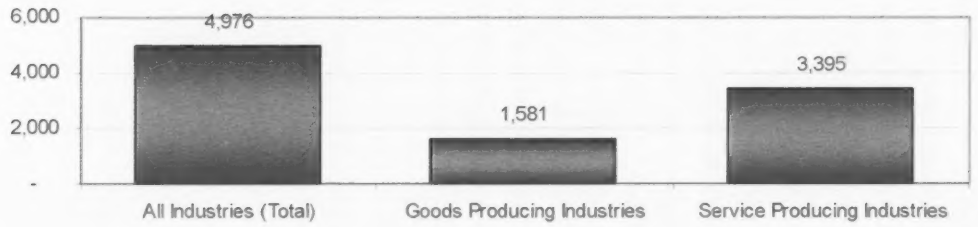
SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

In 2007, 95.7% of all business establishments in the Palliser Region were classified as small business (businesses that have between 1 and 49 employees). The Other Services industry had the largest number of small businesses, followed by Construction and Retail Trade.

From 2006 to 2007, the total number of small business establishments in the Palliser Region rose by 3.3% or 158 establishments. From 2002 to 2007, the number of small business establishments rose by 8.8% or 404 establishments.

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region					
Small Business Establishments[10] (1 - 49 employees)	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	**4,976**	**4,818**	**4,572**	**3.3%**	**8.8%**
Total Goods Industries	**1,581**	**1,646**	**1,570**	**-3.9%**	**0.7%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	473	560	651	-15.5%	-27.3%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	409	374	279	9.4%	46.6%
Utilities	19	17	16	11.8%	18.8%
Construction	564	582	489	-3.1%	15.3%
Manufacturing	116	113	135	2.7%	-14.1%
Total Service Industries	**3,395**	**3,172**	**3,002**	**7.0%**	**13.1%**
Wholesale Trade	249	201	206	23.9%	20.9%
Retail Trade	561	520	507	7.9%	10.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	250	229	264	9.2%	-5.3%
Information and Cultural Industries	50	49	40	2.0%	25.0%
Finance and Insurance	159	129	111	23.3%	43.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	137	153	129	-10.5%	6.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	490	505	428	-3.0%	14.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	43	35	50	22.9%	-14.0%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	211	186	146	13.4%	44.5%
Educational Services	53	48	33	10.4%	60.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	296	276	246	7.2%	20.3%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	61	66	77	-7.6%	-20.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	248	243	271	2.1%	-8.5%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	573	518	479	10.6%	19.6%
Public Administration	14	14	15	0.0%	-6.7%
Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise					

Small Business (1 - 49 Employees) Establishment Count, 2007



INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

As of December 31, 2008, there were 27 projects that were proposed, planned, under construction or recently completed in the Palliser region.

The total value for these 27 projects for the region was close to $2.3 billion. The largest projects are in the power and institutional sectors.

Please note: 2008 and 2007 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: Palliser Region				
Major Construction Projects, As of December 31 [11]				
	Projects		**Value ($millions)**	
Industry Sector	**2008**	**2007**	**2008**	**2007**
Agriculture and Related	1	1	$16.4	$15.0
Commercial/Retail	2	3	$13.0	$25.0
Infrastructure	7	9	$83.6	$107.7
Institutional	6	10	$341.1	$584.3
Oil & Gas	1	1	$36.0	$36.0
Power	4	3	$1,609.7	$1.567.7
Residential	2	2	$18.7	$18.7
Tourism/Recreation	4	4	$160.4	$131.0
TOTAL	**27**	**33**	**$ 2,278.9**	**$ 2,485.4**
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects				

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at $5 million or greater, which have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions
1 Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 - 64).This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
3 Permanent Immigrants – Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.
4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 Years (%) – The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.
5 Labour Force Characteristics – Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) or from the Census. The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. insufficient sample sizes). **LABOUR FORCE:** Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed. **PARTICIPATION RATE:** Number of persons from the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100. **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100. **EMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.
6 Employment by Industry – Based on the LFS or Census data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).
7 Income (2006) **Individual Income:** Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2006. **Couple Income:** Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2006.
8 Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) – Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.
9 Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)
10 Small Business Establishments – Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.
11 Major Projects – As of December 2008, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at $5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, print edition is updated quarterly.

Alberta Finance and Enterprise
4th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 4L6

Telephone: 780.427.6787
Fax: 780.422.0061

Website: www.albertacanada.com

You can access the Regional Economic Indicators reports and the following related department publications on the Internet at www.albertacanada.com/statpub:

- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
- Facts on Alberta
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Monthly Economic Review
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey

© 2009 Government of Alberta

ISBN: 978.0.7785.5744.9
ISSN: 1718.2832

Printed in Canada